

**FILED**

**APR 25 2017**

Clerk, U.S. Courts  
District Of Montana  
Missoula Division

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA  
BUTTE DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

MICHAEL JAMES MASON,

Defendant.

CR 16-23-BU-DLC

FINDINGS AND  
RECOMMENDATION  
CONCERNING PLEA

The Defendant, by consent, has appeared before me under Fed. R. Crim. P. 11 and has entered a plea of guilty to one count of the offense of aiding and abetting money laundering in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 2 and 1956(a)(1)(A)(i) as set forth in the Superseding Information. In exchange for Defendant's plea, the United States has agreed to dismiss the Indictment against him.

After examining the Defendant under oath, I have made the following determinations:

1. That the Defendant is fully competent and capable of entering an informed and voluntary plea,
2. That the Defendant is aware of the nature of the charge against him and

consequences of pleading guilty to the charge,

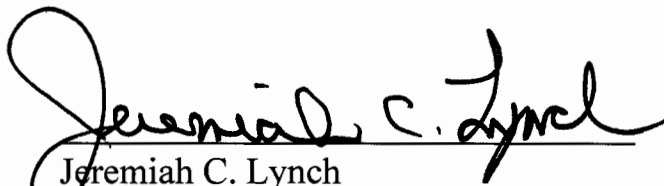
3. That the Defendant fully understands his constitutional rights, and the extent to which he is waiving those rights by pleading guilty, and

4. That the plea of guilty is a knowing and voluntary plea, supported by an independent basis in fact sufficient to prove each of the essential elements of the offense charged.

The Court further concludes that the Defendant had adequate time to review the Plea Agreement with counsel, that he fully understands each and every provision of the agreement and that all of the statements in the Plea Agreement are true. Therefore, I recommend that the Defendant be adjudged guilty of the offense charged in the Superseding Information, and that sentence be imposed. I further recommend that the Indictment be dismissed.

**This report is forwarded with the recommendation that the Court defer a decision regarding acceptance until the Court has reviewed the Plea Agreement and the presentence report.**

DATED this 25<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2017.

  
Jeremiah C. Lynch  
United States Magistrate Judge